# William G. J. Durkin

### **EXPERIENCE**

- Project Manager: Cape Cottage, Cape Porpoise, ME April 2016- Current Planner, Designer and General Contractor in conversion of a 80 year garage building to a small boutique residential home.
- Front Desk Supervisor/Manager on Duty, The Cape Arundel Inn Resort, Kennebunkport, April 2014-April 2017 (Seasonal) perform public relations, guest services duties, management oversight, Reservation operations system and Microsoft Office.
- Independent Contractor, Dube Travel Agency, Auburn, Maine 2012- Current Operating Irish Folklore Tours for individuals, private groups and educational institutions, offering nature, culture and arts based touring experiences.
- Front Desk Supervisor/Manager on Duty, The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport, ME May 2011-Oct 2013 (Seasonal) perform public relations, guest services duties, management oversight, Opera reservation system and Microsoft Office.

<u>Executive Director/Owner</u>, Hemisphere Travel Service and Irish Folklore Tours, Biddeford, Maine October 1989 - January 2011

- Created, organized, marketed and sold culturally oriented tours worldwide (i.e. Ireland, France, Great Britain, Argentina and Vietnam).
- Designed tours for non-profit and higher education institutions such as Smithsonian Institute, Vanderbilt University, New York University, Hiram and Bentley Colleges, University of New England.
- Negotiated and contracted financial transactions for tour related costs.
- Managed diverse network of team members: hotels, airlines, ground operators, brochure designers and printers, tour members, alumni and staff, guides.
- Presented tour itinerary and descriptions to groups (sales and marketing).
- Collaborated successfully with clients from variety backgrounds from all around the world; worked independently and with "tour teams."
- Sold tour packages to retail travel agencies and wholesale tour operators.

<u>President</u>, Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge Ocean Park, Maine (Board Member since 1989)

- Assisted Refuge Manager in identifying critical land for wildlife protection, including initiating contact with landowners and willing sellers.
- Advised the Refuge on its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (May 2007).
- Supported communications with the Refuge's 11 division communities in York and Cumberland coastal towns (Kittery to Cape Elizabeth) and attended town planning board meetings with knowledge of the local zoning issues.

- Established key relationships with Maine's senators and representatives and congressional staff members. Successful in securing more than \$10 million in funding over the past 10 years.
- Traveled to Washington, DC to testify to U.S. Congress House of Representatives Appropriations Sub-committee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Refuge System, highlighting the Timber Point Initiative. The Friends of RCNWR have collaborated with such conservation partners as Trust for Public Land, Maine Audubon, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, Saco Valley Land Trust with the goal of protecting 113 acres at Timber Point in Biddeford and Kennebunkport through land acquisition.
- Became knowledgeable about land conservation funding processes on state and federal levels (LWCF, LMF, local town bonding, private grants and endowments, MCHT Revolving Loan Fund).

<u>Timber Framer and Carpenter</u> R.A.Krouse, Arundel, Maine

Travel Agent/Manager Durkin World Travels, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Coordinated and managed family retail business.
- Learned fundamentals of cash flow, profit-loss, net cost, operating budgets, advertising, and customer service.
- Introduced to World Geography and mapping tools.

### **EDUCATION**

Master of Science Teaching in Environmental Education Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, New Hampshire

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Analysis University of New England, Biddeford, Maine

Associate of Science in General Studies Montgomery County Community College Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

# RELATED EXPERIENCE

# Research

- Masters Thesis: Environmental Travel, using travel as means of influencing viewpoints on "quality of place"
- Socio-Economic History of Irish-American Travel Agents
- Environmental Law in Tourism Development
- Bikeway Proposal for City of Keene, New Hampshire
- Environmental Thought in Irish Song and Music (Audio-Visual)
- Socio-Economic Impact on Proposed Gulf of Maine Aquarium
- An Ecological History of Biddeford Pool, Maine

# **ASSOCIATIONS** (current and past)

- President, Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (1999-present)
- Member of the Friends (1989-present)

The Friends is a non-profit group that supports the mission of the Refuge. We aim to raise local awareness of the need for wildlife habitat protection.

- Chairman ,Downtown Development Commission, City of Biddeford appointment
- Open Space Committee, Chairman, City of Biddeford a newly formed group appointed by the Mayor featuring a working relationship with the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. The committee's purpose is to structure an open space plan for Biddeford; recently successful in obtaining \$160,000 in grants towards purchase of conservation land in January 2011.
- RiverWalk Coalition Steering Committee member, a Biddeford-Saco commission
- Fundraising Committee, Catherine McAuley High School, Portland
- Biddeford Pool Improvement Association and Land Trust
- Fundraising Committee, St. James School, Biddeford
- Biddeford/Saco Chamber of Commerce
- Kennebunkport Tourism Promotion Committee
- University of New England Alumni Council
- Heart of Biddeford Board Member
- Baseball and basketball coach, St James Grade School
- Biddeford High School Boys Basketball Program Staff

# **INTERESTS**

Hiking, mountain biking, skiing, sailing, boating, reading, art, music, woodworking, stonewall building, travel, basketball, backroads touring, map collecting, research, writing, collaborating, studying Maine landscapes through ecological eyes, and walking coastal paths with my wife